



Changing household responses to drought in Tharaka, Kenya: Vulnerability, persistence and challenge

Author(s): Smucker TA, Wisner B
Year: 2008
Journal: Disasters. 32 (2): 190-215

Abstract:

Drought is a recurring challenge to the livelihoods of those living in Tharaka District, Kenya, situated in the semi-arid zone to the east of Mount Kenya, from the lowest slopes of the mountain to the banks of the Tana River. This part of Kenya has been marginal to the economic and political life of Kenya from the colonial period until the present day. A study of more than 30 years of change in how people in Tharaka cope with drought reveals resilience in the face of major macro-level transformations, which include privatisation of landownership, population growth, political decentralisation, increased conflict over natural resources, different market conditions, and environmental shifts. However, the study also shows troubling signs of increased use of drought responses that are incompatible with long-term agrarian livelihoods. Government policy needs to address the challenge of drought under these new macro conditions if sustainable human development is to be achieved.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-7717.2007.01035.x>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Precipitation, Temperature

Extreme Weather Event: Drought

Food/Water Security: Agricultural Productivity, Livestock Productivity

Temperature: Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Rural

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Non-United States: Africa

African Region/Country: African Country

Other African Country: Kenya

Health Impact: ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: ☒

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status, Workers

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Research Article

Resilience: ☒

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified